

His MAJESTY

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THE

King of Sweden's

LETTER 4

TO THE

States-Generall

OF THE

United Provinces.

Printed *Anno Domini* 1675.

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His Majesty the King of Sweden's Letter to the States Generall of the United Provinces.



WE *CHARLES* by the Grace of God King of Sweden, &c. To the High and Mighty Lords the States Generall of the United Provinces, Greeting.

High and Mighty, how great have been the Friendships, and how considerable the Alliances, which have always past between Our Kingdom and the United Provinces, no person can be ignorant of, that shall have reflected upon the memorable monuments of their preservation; For the Faith, by which they are maintained, is most plain and unsuspected to all men, and the signal constancy is equally known, by which they have continued so long unmoved. The transmission of this Faith, together with the Inheritance of Our Kingdom, We have taken so to heart, that We are resolved, as well to discharge Our selves in point of affection to Our Friends and Allies, as to follow the footsteps of our Predecessors in other Actions of Honour and Glory. Wherefore We have always taken especial care, not only to stand firm to that ancient Tye, but also to make it yet stricter, by the addition of new Obligations; which being evident to all, that shall consider, how readily We Our selves have either given the occasion of strengthening Our Leagues by a still closer Union, or accepted of it, when it presented it self; We make no question, but when You your selves shall reflect upon the many Advantages in these conjunctures of affairs, which We have neglected, together with the tedious troubles and difficulties, which We have willingly undergone, in order to the welfare of You, Our good Friends and Allies; You will find no place to doubt of Our fidelity towards You: While We had these things under consideration, and were contriving, how We might joyn Counsels with You, both for the restoring of a General Peace, and for the securing

of it, when restored, and even promising unto Our selves with great joy the hopes of seeing that Peace speedily effected, and Your affairs by the blessing of Almighty God happily composed; We were surprized to understand, that in stead of the Friendly inclinations, which We expected from You, You were even at that time upon consultations of War, and come already to a resolution of levying Forces, and imploying them against Us; and that only for this reason, that, since the Elector of *Brandenburgh* contrary to the hopes he had given Us by a Treaty lately concluded with Us, (whose only scope is the quiet of the Empire) and not regarding that Instrument of Peace, in the Guarranty whereof We are likewise concerned, and so not adjusting his proportion of Forces, by rates, with the other Members of the Empire, in order to a Common defence; but by sending a distinct and formed Army, hath taken such violent Counsels, as are neither agreeable to the procuring of the pretended Peace, nor indeed safe to Us, in regard that they increase those evils the Empire hath so long laboured under, and endanger those Interests, which We have a just right unto, by vertue of the Treaty of *Westphalia*; We upon the consideration aforesaid, have been necessitated not to omit or neglect any of those things, which We are either obliged to by the Guarranty of the said Treaty of *Westphalia*, or by the consideration of Our proper security. And this is a matter of such a quality, as, whether We consider Our good affections towards You, or Our own indefatigable endeavours, for the procuring of a Publick Peace, We cannot yet but be exceedingly moved at; little expecting, that We, who have so firmly adhered to the ancient Friendship between Our Kingdom, and Your State, and ever preserved it inviolably, and in preference to all other considerations whatsoever, We, who have been ever ready to oblige Your Commonwealth with all offices of kindness, and ever professed to do whatsoever might conduce to the strengthening of Our mutual Alliance, should come at last to be treated by You, not as Confederates, but as Enemies, in which matter, whether You have requited Us well or ill, We appeal to Your own Justice. Nor can the pains, which We have impartially taken, for the restoring of Peace to the World, and to You, seem to merit at Your hands, that any

ſuch Counſels ſhould find place with You, as may endanger ei-
 ther Our Security, or the diminution of Our Honour and Safety.
 That paſſage of Yours is indeed praiſe-worthy, where You pro-
 feſs, Your care of Your Alliances and Confederates; But while
 You perſwade others by Your own Example, that mutual Faith
 is not to be broken, You muſt alſo needs determine it to be un-
 juſt, that others ſhould therefore Arm againſt Us, becauſe We
 neither can, nor will be wanting to our Confederate, or to the
 Treaty, to which we are ſworn. Nor is indeed Our Treaty with
 the moſt Serene and moſt Potent King of *France* ſo qualified, as
 that it may be called a New one, or ſuch as owes its right and
 force to the preſent Commotions only, but ſtands upon ſuch
 foundations; as are much antecedent in time and date to the
 War, in which You now are involved, and requires the ſame
 care from Us, upon occaſion even of the preſent ſtate of Affairs,
 which had been as much Our concern, although the War had
 not happened between the Moſt Chriſtian King, and You, which
 hath thus unhappily brought ſo many Princes and States of Eu-
 rope into mutual effuſions of blood. And truly if the obliga-
 tions of Oaths in Treaties may paſs for any ſecurity to the Allies;
 it is to be hoped, You will eſteem Your ſelves engaged, ſo to
 undertake the Cauſe of Your other Confederates, that at the
 ſame time You take care, it be not to Our prejudice, ſince We,
 who have merited nothing of this nature from You, are likewiſe
 in Alliance with You, and have Treaties between Us ancient,
 and frequently renewed; Neither are We ſo tranſported with
 a blind deſire of War, as to deſign the deſtruction of Your Con-
 federate, but only intent upon a timely obviating and preventing
 the dangers We are expoſed to, by his Preparations, ſo far as is
 neceſſary for Our own ſafety. But if you purſue other Counſels,
 it will be in effect, not ſo much to ſtand to Your Treaty, or un-
 dertake the defence of Your Confederate, as to countenance his
 dangerous proceedings againſt Us, which ſo much as to ſuſpect
 in You, will not conſiſt with the unfeigned and ſincere affection,
 We have ever paid You. And as the matter in queſtion be-
 tween Us, and the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, is wholly remote
 from what concerns Your State, regardiug only the quiet of
Germany, and looking wholly that way, to wit, that the Treaty,

of *Westphalia* be not totally trampled upon, and its Articles vilified and despised; So that We must appear, to have rather desired the Peace of the Empire, than defended it; So neither can Our Arming give You any just cause of offence, since the pure necessity of looking to Our selves hath obliged Us to this Preparation. For, there is no War intended upon You, which even then for Your Safeties sake We declined, when the bad condition of Your affairs, and the just confidence of Our success might have invited Us thereunto: Nor besides that can there be any damage or danger apprehended by You, from Our Preparations, which might divert the Assistance of Your Confederates, and that way hasten Your destruction, or obstruct the recovery of what You have lost; For it hath pleased the Divine Bounty, so to dispose of You, that standing now upon Your own legs again, the accession of other helps will not be needfull, for the recovery or preservation of Your Commonwealth; much less those helps, which must bring danger to the Treaty of *Westphalia*, (which will be likewise Your own Interest to preserve inviolable) in the subversion of so many States of the Empire, whose Houses lie buried in the ruins of the War, and in the sighs and tears of so many miserable and perishing persons. In contemplation wherefore of all these things We cannot doubt, but Your selves will determine, that to imploy Your Armes against Us, cannot be just, because not necessary; and therefore the more unexcusable, since all hope of Peace being taken away (which began now to appear again) without any present enforcing danger, a door is opened for a new War, whereof no man living can foretell the end. But above all other mischiefs, that will probably ensue upon this War, how dreadfull will the consideration be, of those terrible Assaults of the *Ottoman* Fury, upon that ancient Bulwark of Christendom, the Kingdom of *Poland*, and the forsaken State of the Christian Interest, while the Christian Princes and Commonwealths are engaged in mutual rage and destruction, then which nothing can be more welcome to Turkish Tyranny, or more conducing to the Imposition of that Yoak upon the Christian Name? But it is now in Your power, to provide for the divisions of Christendom, and the concerns of Your Confederate, by a remedy more gentle and

safe, than can be found in the continuation of the present War, or the addition of a fresh one, which is no other, then Your Resolution to perswade him by a Friendly Admonition, not to pursue his present design, but to incline to better Counsels, and by a speedy Peace to cut off and remove all impediments, and arising difficulties. And that You may be the better assured of Our peacefull intentions, We most solemnly protest unto You, that as it is a matter of great grief unto Us, that the Elector of *Brandenburg* should have too hastily imbraced such Counsels, as are neither consistent with the Treaty made with Us, nor the sincere affection We have always borne unto him, and to the Peace and the care of the promotion thereof, which he pretended to undertake in a common concern with Us, so likewise, as soon as the Elector, either of his own accord, or by perswasion, and the interposition of Your good Offices, shall be moved to retire with his Army, and shall proceed to such Counsels, as shall not obstruct, but facilitate the Publick quiet; and that We shall perceive a sufficient provision to be made for the Peace of *Westphalia*, and for Our own Safety, which depends upon its true and faithfull observance and warranty, that We will then meet him with all the readiness imaginable, in returning to Our former mutual confidence, and will immediately withdraw Our Forces out of all such the Elector's Territories, as they have had Orders to march into: And finally, We will take care so to act, as that it may be visible to the whole World, that in the employing of Our Armies We are not govern'd by any desires of bringing on one War by another, or of assisting such endeavours, as oppose Peace, and design the oppression of others, much less to intend by them, the seizure and possession of any place belonging to the Elector, the Empire, or any other whatsoever; but do purely look to the promotion of Peace, and the defence of Our own just Rights and Alliances. We hope also, that this assurance and Faith which We give You, for the truth and fidelity of Our Zeal to the Peace, may be sufficient for Your reliance and satisfaction, and may produce such effects, as shall let You see Your selves, that there is no just cause for the drawing Your Forces upon Us, but that You will apply Your selves to such considerations and measures, as may evidence those generous

nerous and frequent Protestations of Your good inclinations to Peace, and confirm Our hopes, of finding Your proceedings equal and proportionable to the good affections, We have for Your selves, and all Your concerns. But if it should happen otherwise, which God forbid, We shall bear Our selves upon the Justice that is on Our side, being most confident, that Our Cause and good intentions will have together with the Divine Assistance, all the Success that can be desired, and the favour and encouragement of all the Lovers of Peace and Justice. In the meantime, We have not receded in the least from the Resolution We have always owned, of living amicably with You, nor shall We be found, to have remitted any thing, of the desire We have always entertained of preserving the Publick and Common Tranquility, and of contending with You only by such arguments of Friendship and good will, that it may be a question, whether We are more ready, or You more inclined to such endeavours and methods, as may prove effectual for the lengthning and preserving of Our mutual Friendship, and the continuation of it to posterity. All which Our Extraordinary Ambassador and Chancellor of Our Court, the Noble and Right-trusty *Edward Ehrensteen*, Hereditary Lord of *Forsbygard*, &c. having Orders to express more at large, We refer Our selves to him, and so concluding these presents, We most heartily recommend You to Almighty God, the Author of Peace, wishing You all happiness and prosperity. Dated, &c. the 5th. of December, 1674.

Your good Friend and Confederate,

CHARLES.

H. HOGHUSEN.